

For Immediate Release



2013 AUB Job Fair defiant despite regional crises: some 260 vacancies offered to students

Beirut, Lebanon- 25/04/2012 - The American University of Beirut's annual job fair defied the global and regional recession and instability, and succeeded to attract some of the top companies in the region, offering 258 vacancies to students and alumni.

Held over two days on April 25 and 26, the job fair is set up on the upper campus, near West Hall. It provides graduating students and interested AUB alumni with the opportunity to meet representatives of various potential employers and discuss career opportunities.

This year, the 258 vacancies available for fresh AUB graduates and alumni were offered by 141 multi-national, regional, and local companies and non-governmental organizations that joined the fair.

Among the multinational and regional firms participating were Microsoft, Google, Jones Lang LaSalle, HSBC, Baker Hughes, Olayan Financing Group, Khatib and Alami, Midmac Contracting, Dar Al-Handasa, Boston Consulting Group, Accenture, Delta Partners Group, PepsiCo, Nestle, JWC, Memac-Ogilvy, Roland Berger, Brasserie Almaza, Petrofac, and Dabbour International, and many others.

AUB President Peter Dorman opened the fair, saying: "This is a great opportunity for employers to connect with the best and brightest students that this country produces... Our students are not just trained in professional skills; they are also trained to develop powers in critical and creative thinking."

Dorman who reminded students that the fair is a "serious chance for them to meet potential employers," advised them to also explore "what kind of life" the jobs will offer them. "In order to be happy in your jobs, do something you love, in an environment you love," he told students.

Maryam Ghandour, fair organizer and career counseling and placement services specialist at the Student Affairs Office, said, "Despite the present global financial recession, in general, and in the MENA region, in particular, the job opportunities that are available for AUB students and alumni are still maintaining a high standard in terms of numbers and quality."

This year, almost half of participating companies (or 44%) were multinationals.

The general feedback from the firms was positive, and representatives praised the large turnout and the number of “capable, mature, and enthusiastic” students who stopped by, “fully prepared” with their CVs in hand and having done their homework.

Memac-Ogilvy representative Tatiana Hayek, the company’s group and Lebanon HR manager, said that although they had previously tried participating in other university job fairs, her company currently only joins the AUB fair because students are “dynamic and engaged, and the participating companies are of high caliber.”

Students were equally positive.

“The fair gives us an opportunity to connect in person with potential employers, which is much better than sending your CV blindly and risk having it deleted or overlooked in saturated inboxes,” said Abbas Shamseddine, a civil engineering alumnus who graduated in 2011.

Activities throughout the fair included 27 recruitment presentations as well as 37 on-campus individual interviews. Also, workshops and aptitude tests were organized around the fair-- in the days before and after the event—to help students gain valuable market skills and/or demonstrate their talents to potential employers.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor’s, master’s, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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